

The VHA VOICE

August 2022 Vol. 28 No. 8

THE VILLAGES HOMEOWNERS ADVOCATES: KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

The VHA FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

The VHA

The VHA HELPING HANDS

THE VHA QUARTERLY TOWN HALL REPORT: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

The VHA wants to thank the following people for providing answers to questions from VHA members and The Villages residents for The VHA Town Hall meeting on July 19, 2022: Dr. Gary Lester – Vice President Community Relations; Carrie Duckett – Assistant District Manager; John Rohan – Director of Villages Recreation and Parks; Lt. Robert Siemer – District Lieutenant from the Sumter County Sheriff's Department; and Bradley Arnold – Sumter County Administrator. Deborah Synder – Director of Public Works, Sumter County.

Note: The complete Q & A of previous Town Hall Meetings are posted on The VHA website.

To send feedback to the District Government, go to www.districtgov.org. Scroll down lower left and click on "Submit Feedback, Inquiry, or Concern." i.e., landscaping, multi-modal paths, etc.

To send feedback to the Developer, go to www.thevillages.com. Scroll down to "Get in Touch" and click on "Provide Feedback."

1. Please provide movie theater updates for the following:

- Opening the Rialto and Brownwood theaters for movies.
- Revised usages of the Rialto and Brownwood theaters.
- Purchasing movie theater tickets online.

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Dr. Lester: The movie industry shows signs of bouncing back from the pandemic lows with the release of TOP GUN to movie theaters only. We will continue to monitor the need for additional screens as more of these popular movies are released. We also still have the capacity to add additional show times at Old Mill. In terms of purchasing tickets online, residents currently have that service available at www.thevil-lagesentertainment.com – click on "Movies"

2. What is the status of the new hospital planned near the Florida Turnpike?

Dr. Lester: Planning for a new hospital continues; follow The Daily Sun for accurate updates.

3. Would the Developer consider partnering with other agencies in establishing a botanical garden with large acreage and walking trails?

Dr. Lester: This question reflects the popularity of our current walking trails and features like the Sharon Rose Wiechens Preserve and the Hogeye Sink Trail. We certainly would welcome other agencies in the area that wish to create such features on their property.

4. When completed, what will the new bridge over the Florida Turnpike look like?

Dr. Lester: The appearance will be similar to other automotive bridges crossing over the Turnpike.

5. What are the ramifications in the first twelve (12) months of purchasing a new home in The Villages? i.e., selling the home for profit.

Dr. Lester: Please refer to your Deed Restrictions.

6. Where will the designated parking places be located for the Spanish Springs town square apartments?

Dr. Lester: Per a provision in their leases, renters will park in an area to the rear of their building.

7. Are there plans to add a swimming pool to future country clubs?

Dr. Lester: No changes are contemplated in the placing of pools.

8. Is there a different ratio of executive golf courses being built south of SR 44 from the north per number of houses?

Dr. Lester: While the ratio can vary up or down depending on new course openings and the suitability of a certain area for building a golf course, there continues to be a consistent percentage of available tee times.

9. How does the number of Executive Golf course closures for maintenance compare in the summer of 2022 with summer 2021?

Carrie Duckett: The number of scheduled Executive Golf course closures for maintenance is the same this summer as they were last summer. Each Executive Golf course is scheduled to be closed twice a month for routine maintenance. A schedule of course closures is available on the Executive Golf page at www.districtgov.org.

Q. Why are Yankee Clipper and Volusia closed for a long time?

A. Yankee Clipper, Volusia, and Palmetto were closed for the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) approved capital improvement project for cart paths. We are currently in the final phase of sodding around the paths and punch list items, including the contractor repairing some concrete in warranty areas. We anticipate the courses opening back up at the end of July 2022.

10. Soliciting has become more prevalent in The Villages. How can this be addressed?



Carrie Duckett: If you report solicitors to Community Watch or Community Standards, they will contact the business and inform them that soliciting is not permitted.

Lt. Siemer: If a solicitor refuses to leave when asked, call 911. Reminder: Purchasing items from solicitors encourages solicitors to continue coming to The Villages.

Q. What about canvassing residents?

Continued on page 7

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.THEVHA.NET

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President's Message



Hello Villagers!!

Welcome to the dog days of summer! The Old Farmer's Almanac lists the traditional timing of the dog days: the 40 days beginning July 3 and ending August 11, coinciding with the heliacal (at sunrise) rising of the Dog Star, Sirius. Here in Florida, it probably goes a couple weeks longer.

It's normally a period of stagnation or inactivity. But not here in The Villages. Those of us still here are busy doing what we do, just in a cool environment (except for golf, pickleball, etc.). Except for the Helping Hands volunteers who continue to provide outstanding customer service to the thousands of Villagers requiring our services. To date this year, we've had over 4000 contacts so far, surpassing where we were last year. It's encouraging to know that our program is assisting so many Villagers.

Do you have relatives or friends visiting that might require some durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, transport chairs, etc.)?

If so, they can leave their equipment at home and you can request a short-term loan from us for while they're here. When they return home, you just return the equipment to us. No storage required on your part. And you can do this as often as you need. It's just another service we provide to Villages' residents. The full list of what we provide is on our website: <https://www.thevha.net/helping-hands/>.

How do you get this equipment from us? Glad you asked. Just call us at 352-973-2284. One of our volunteer coordinators will discuss your requirement to ensure you get exactly what you need. Then within a day or two, your equipment will be ready for pickup

VHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mike Dollard, Treasurer

Karl Arps * Russ D'Emidio
Peter Moeller * Greg Panjian
Vivian Stephens * Chuck Wildzunas

For contact information go to
www.thevha.net

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Jeff Rattner, Secretary/Treasurer
Mary Inwood * John McDonald
Deborah Hagey * Phil Walker

For contact information go to www.thevha.net Or email
us at: vha.helpinghands.officemail@gmail.com

Editor's Note: While we try to publish the most accurate information available to us at the time of publication, due to circumstances beyond our control some events may need to be cancelled or postponed. Please confirm with the source of the information provided if there is any doubt about whether or not an event is still being held as planned.

at our office in Spanish Springs (1104 Main Street, rear of alcove adjacent to Kilwins Ice Cream & Candy) between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Concerned about COVID or other infections? You should be. And we are as well, not only to protect you, but for our volunteers as well. All of our equipment is fully disinfected before it enters our office, either equipment returns or equipment donations.

Want to help? We have a few opportunities where you could provide much needed assistance. None of the positions are very demanding. We're especially looking for volunteers that have a minimal understanding of Excel; basically, how to navigate around a spreadsheet. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact us at 352-973-2284 to find out more.

Speaking of donations, we are a 501(c)(3) organization with 100% non-paid volunteers and 100% funded/equipped through donations. You can donate via credit card online at our website (<https://www.thevha.net/helping-hands/>), send us a check (made out to Helping Hands and mailed to us at 1104 Main Street, The Villages, FL 32159, or drop off cash or equipment in good condition at our office.

*Neighbors Helping Neighbors,
Al Arnold, President
The VHA Helping Hands*



VISION
Keeping the Dream Alive

MISSION

The Villages Homeowners Advocates (VHA) is a lifestyle organization whose members are committed to championing the needs of Villagers through:

- Positive, constructive dialogue
- Problem solving • Education
- Philanthropic efforts

VALUES

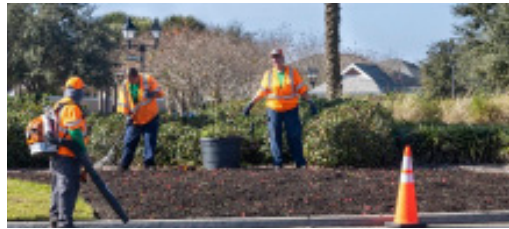
The VHA is committed to excellence and driven by the following values:

- Integrity • Honesty
- Accountability • Independence

Upcoming EVENTS

AUGUST 2022

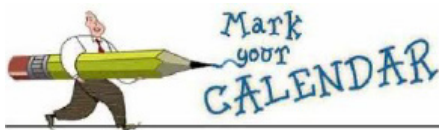
SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS ON MONTHLY VHA PROGRAMS



EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT DISTRICT LANDSCAPING

AUGUST 22, 2022 • 7:00 P.M. @
EZELL RECREATION CENTER

Join us for an overview of this department; how it works, what it does and does not do, and how we can assist the department in maintaining our community/district.



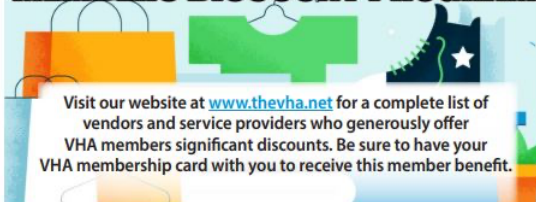
SEPTEMBER 2022

THE VHA GENERAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 7:00 P.M.
**AT THE LAKE MIONA REGIONAL
RECREATION CENTER**



**GRAB YOUR VHA
MEMBERSHIP CARD AND
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
YOUR M2M DISCOUNT
PROGRAM BENEFIT:**

M2M: THE VHA-MERCHANTS TO MEMBERS DISCOUNT PROGRAM



Visit our website at www.thevha.net for a complete list of vendors and service providers who generously offer VHA members significant discounts. Be sure to have your VHA membership card with you to receive this member benefit.



YOU GOT SUMMONED

by Sumter County Judge Paul L. Militello



You walked to your mailbox and for the first time ever, received a jury summons. What can you expect, and why should you care?

WHY A PUBLIC JURY TRIAL?

The US Constitution guarantees the right to a jury trial in both the sixth and seventh amendments, part of the Bill of Rights. Our founding fathers were concerned with tyranny and oppression in government. Part of the genius of our Constitution is the checks and balances of power. A trial by jury is the ultimate check on the power of the Judicial Branch.

WHAT IS THE DUTY OF THE JUDGE AND THE JURY IN A TRIAL?

The duties of the judge and the jury are distinct, and they do not overlap. This is one of the fundamental principles in our justice system. The jury listens to the testimony and evidence in the case to determine what happened. They determine what the true facts are by using their common sense, deciding which witnesses are believable, and which evidence should not be relied upon. They determine the facts.

The judge, on the other hand, makes sure that both sides follow the rules of evidence. The judge also determines which laws apply to the case and instructs the jury on the laws that apply. The jury then applies the law they have been given to the facts to decide on the verdict.

HOW LONG WILL THE TRIAL LAST?

The vast majority of trials in Sumter County are usually resolved in one to two days. The jury selection usually takes place on the Monday of the trial week with the trial taking place on another day of the same week.

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Jury duty is one of the few times YOU can give back to our Country. The teamwork of Judge and Jury protects our rights and liberties. By working together, they put into practice the principles of our great heritage of freedom.



☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP ☐ RENEWAL

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

VILLA/VILLAGE: _____

OTHER ADDRESS IF ANY: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

MAIL TO: THE VHA, 1104 Main St., The Villages, FL 32159
OR JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE AT: WWW.THEVHA.NET

Membership:
\$25 for 2 years, or
\$100 for lifetime

Don't wait!
Join now, and be a part of
our growing community!

**IT'S OFFICIAL! THE VHA'S NEW
FACEBOOK PAGE HAS BEEN
UPDATED AND IMPROVED.
THE NEW NAME IS:
[thevha4you](https://www.facebook.com/thevha4you)**

**JUST TYPE THAT NAME INTO
THE "SEARCH" BOX ON FB AND CLICK
"LIKE" TO RECEIVE THE LATEST
INFORMATION ON OUR PROGRAMS AND
COMMUNITY NEWS OF INTEREST.**

**YOU CAN ALSO GO TO OUR WEBSITE
TO UPDATE YOUR EMAIL/CONTACT
INFORMATION AND TO RECEIVE
TIME-SENSITIVE EMAIL BLASTS.
www.thevha.net**

The VHA News & Notes

NORTH AREA



North of 466
Karl Arps, Vice President
karl.arps@gmail.com - (920) 285-1382

Here in the north area of The Villages we need to fill several volunteer positions.

Neighborhood Representatives. VHA Neighborhood Reps are the primary connection between VHA Members and the organizations that make for our beautiful lifestyle (District Government, the Developer, law enforcement, and county and local government). We have over 40 Neighborhood Representatives in the North Area, but to offer the best service to our members, we need reps in several District 4 (Marion County) neighborhoods, including: **Villages: Springdale, Piedmont, Chatham, Calumet Grove; Villas: Bromley, Chadwick, Fairlawn, Phillips, Pinecrest, Soulliere, Sherwood, Sunnyside, Waverly.**

If you would like to help your neighbors by providing honest information and by passing their concerns to our Villages partners, please send me an email. I will reply with a more complete description of the role and arrange to meet with you to answer questions.

Assistant Vice-President. As we increase our activities to serve residents and especially our members, the job of Area Vice-President is getting bigger. An Area Assistant Vice-President helps the VP share the load, but also learns a lot about the workings of The VHA and prepares for promotion to Vice-President or other VHA offices (and maybe for elected office at the district, local, or county level). As with the Representative positions, if you think you may be interested, please email me. I will be happy to discuss the position with you.

In Other News: I was lucky enough to attend two big events recently. The first was a Resident Academy put on by our District Government. I thought I knew a lot about our unique self-governing system, but there was a lot more to learn. The next Resident Academy will be held on October 17 at La Hacienda Recreation Center.

Continued on page 5

CENTRAL AREA



Between 466 and 466A
Ellie Decker, Vice President
ellenmdecker@gmail.com - 913-530-7439

Hi Neighbors, This month's article is about health, fire, and ambulance services.

Before going to the doctor, know that a new patient appointment is used in Florida to establish yourself for future checkups or sick visits. As usual, see if they take your insurance or Medicare first. You may want to schedule regular visits for the off-season. Be sure to get familiar with the Hospitals and Urgent Cares closest to you. (By the way, the government Covid tests you may have gotten are starting to expire. You can reorder them from [CovidTest.gov](https://www.covidtest.gov). You'll be directed to www.USPS.com).

Community Watch regularly patrols every neighborhood and will investigate to see if you need help if there are newspapers left in your driveway. So, don't pick up your neighbor's papers unless asked, as someone might need help. They will also call to check on you every morning if you ask them to by calling 352-753-0550; open 24/7.

The Fire Department in The Villages is called the Villages Public Safety Department (VPSD). We have 9 Fire Stations, and 150 plus full-time firefighters. Most are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) or Paramedics. If you are uncomfortable on a ladder to change the batteries in your smoke detector, you can call 352-205-8280, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri., for a same-day appointment to have them do it for you. Have your new nine-volt batteries ready. If a detector is chirping one time per minute, it's the battery. If it's 3-5 times per minute you need a new detector.

The Ambulance Service for our area is currently provided by Sumter County. They have a contract with AMR. On Nov. 8 we may vote for a Villages Independent Fire Control and Rescue District. There is a lot of information on this topic available on the District website. Once you are on the website, you can type the word "Ambulance" into the website's search. The goal of the change is to have the quickest response times.

Until next month, Ellie Decker

SOUTH AREA



Between 466A and SR44
Mike Dollard, Vice President
mjdollard@hotmail.com - 585-315-8338

Starting next month I am going to be The VHA Treasurer so my regular column here may disappear or at least become on a less-than-regular basis.

I don't care if it gets hot, I'm from Western New York and have vivid memories of a lifetime of cold weather, so I'll take Florida any day.

Did you move here from another state? Have two or more cell phones on your bill? When you change the billing address for the primary one there is a good chance the other one is still taxed at your old address. Go on line and check; no use paying taxes where you no longer live. Verizon is notorious for this.

It is getting to be voting season, I can tell by the mailbox. I am thankful to live in a country where I do get a chance to vote so the campaigning part is something I will live with. One thing that some are pushing is to change the local law so that we only vote for county commissioners in our own area/district.

Sumter county is not that big (only part of The Villages is in Sumter, the rest is in Lake and Marion counties) so I reject the idea that I can only vote for one small area. If you can raise my taxes and spend my money you had better believe that I want to vote for the person that has that power.

I have a simple solution for those that think this is a good idea - you can just vote for the candidate in your area and skip all the other positions to vote for. The rest of us can then vote in all of the races. That way there is no cost to make changes and everyone votes as they see fit. It is a win-win.

OK, I'm being sarcastic, and honest, but the idea that we take a small county and cut it up into even smaller voting blocs is really, really stupid.

Mike Dollard



**THE FOLLOWING SMART
DRIVER "IN PERSON" CLASSES
WILL BE AVAILABLE IN
AUGUST 2022. PLEASE CONTACT
THE NUMBER LISTED.**

Paul Scannell	352-399-6414	08/02/22	Tues	08/03/22	Wed	Colony Cottage
Jack Haughn	352-603-1420	08/15/22	Mon	08/18/22	Thurs	Savannah
Chet Kowalski	352-430-1833	08/20/22	Sat	08/27/22	Sat	Paradise

Other online driver safety courses listed below are available on multiple dates.

For more info go to:

<https://local.aarp.org/the-villages-fl/>



**Attention Veterans! Learn How to Combine
and Access Your Healthcare Records Into
a Single Easy-to-Use App!**

Wednesday, August 24, 2022, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.: This webinar will help you understand how to access, share, and understand your healthcare records. Go to www.DrOwl.com/AMAC or call 1-888-693-7695 for more information.

Choosing the Assisted Living Facility that Best Fits Your Needs

Wednesday, August 31, 2022, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: This seminar is focused totally on tips and techniques to consider when facing this task. The session will be conducted by Rhonda Hardy, author of "How to Choose the Best Assisted Living."

There is no cost to attend these events. To register, contact the AMAC Foundation office at 888-750-2622 or via email at info@AmacFoundation.org.



FAR SOUTH AREA



South of SR44
Dave Fountaine, Vice President
dfountaine4760@gmail.com
 – 716-816-8500

The VHA continues to be busy here in the Far South area! We had great attendance at our **Deed Compliance and Community Watch Program**. It was so popular that we unfortunately could not accommodate all those who wished to attend, and I apologize for that.

We also had approximately 100 people attend our Baby Boomer Trivia night at Everglades Recreation Center! It was a great event, and everyone had a lot of fun. We'll be having another social event in October.



In addition to the many new homeowners continuing to move into the new villages south of CR 44, Sawgrass Grove has now fully opened and is being well received! If you haven't had an opportunity to visit Sawgrass Grove, I highly encourage you to visit and sample the fine food and beverages available.

I had the opportunity to attend the Resident Academy that the District Government offers. What a wealth of information presented by the outstanding team from the District government! If you have the time, I'd suggest considering attending. Information about the academy can be found on the district website home page at www.districtgov.org.

As we continue to grow, homeowners often have questions concerning deed restrictions (what can/cannot be placed outside homes, etc.). Questions have also arisen concerning parking of RV's and businesses being operated out of homes. For these types of questions please contact the Community Standards Department. Each situation is unique, and the staff is ready and able to help address your specific concern. Please contact them at 352-751-3912.

On August 22 at 7:00 p.m. we will be hosting a program titled "Everything You Want To Know About District Landscaping". I think you will be amazed at the planning and effort that goes into maintaining the beautiful areas throughout this place we call home! Seating is limited to 144 and it is first come/first served. Doors will open at approximately 6:20 p.m.

Dave Fountaine

The VHA MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS REWARDS...JOIN TODAY

LADY LAKE



Lynn Davis
Lynna527@aol.com – 352-250-7782

The Tuesday Lady Lake Farmers Market held in front of the Log Cabin on US Hwy 441/27 will be closing August 16th with a scheduled reopening in Feb.

The Lady Lake Library located at 225W. Guava St. is accepting donated books, magazines and DVD's. No textbooks or encyclopedias. Items can be dropped off at the library on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Lady Lake Police Department recently introduced its newest K-9 member. "Fast" is a 16-month-old Golden Retriever (pictured with Officer Ryan O'Neal). He will help track missing persons as well as detecting drugs. He is joining the other K-9 member named "Lux".



The qualifying dates for the Office of Lady Lake Town Commissioner, for Ward 2 and Ward 4, will begin on August 15th at noon and end on August 19th at noon. Residency Requirement: A candidate shall be a qualified elector of the Town for a minimum of twelve (12) months prior to the date of qualification as a candidate. For more information go to: <https://www.ladylake.org/news/2022-elections/> and/or contact Nancy Wilson, Lady Lake Town Clerk at 352-751-1502.

SAFETY FIRST: Be very alert traveling through the construction zone on US Hwy 27/441. Be aware of hurricane season. To prepare ahead of time, know where to go, what to do, and stay current on weather conditions. Have all your emergency supplies ready.

Have a safe and happy summer;

Lynn Davis

NORTH AREA cont'd from Page 4

Sign up at www.districtgov.org.

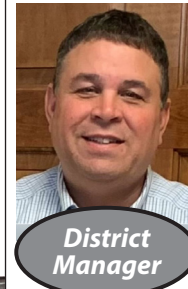
The second event was The VHA's quarterly Town Hall meeting where your questions were asked of the Villages Developer, District Government management, Law Enforcement, and County Administration. The questions and answers are elsewhere in this issue, but there is no substitute for being there in person. The VHA Town Hall is open to the VHA Board, Officers, and Neighborhood Reps. (Yet another reason to consider volunteering.)

Finally: For most of August, I will be in the real "Up North", Wisconsin, so I will not be writing this column. See you in the October issue.

Karl Arps

The Villages
 Community Development Districts

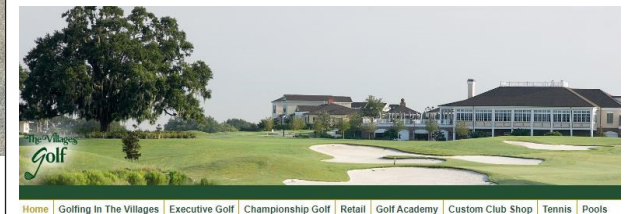
GOOD GOLF GUIDANCE



District Manager

Here in The Villages, a big part of the active lifestyle is golf. There are so many golfing experiences available here between the 13 Championship courses and 42 Executive courses – totaling 711 holes.

All of these courses provide a great experience for not only seasoned players but also for someone just picking up the sport. **Additionally, there are entertaining putting course amenities available such as the newly opened Stars and Stripes 18-hole putting course at the new First Responders Recreation Center.** With so



many golf recreation opportunities, we encourage residents and guests to check out the **Golf The Villages** website (www.GolfTheVillages.com) which features a wide range of useful information including details about each course, golf etiquette, dress code, golf cart use, course care, and many helpful recommendations to maximize your experience.

The Villages also provides the **Good Golf School**, complimentary to residents. Go to the district website www.districtgov.org and click on Departments; select Executive Golf, then under the Quick Links menu that comes up on the lefthand side, click on the Good Golf School for information and to register to take the class. This is an educational opportunity for residents to learn about the Tee Time System and how to make golf reservations. It will aid you in making the most out of your golfing experience.

These classes are held every month at the Colony Cottage Regional Recreation Center. Additional information on these valuable resources including the Good Golf Guide, schedules, and sign-up forms for the Good Golf School, can be found at www.districtgov.org and www.GolfTheVillages.com.

The District is focused on providing great recreational amenities to our residents and guests here in Florida's Friendliest Hometown. We encourage you to participate in the many opportunities with golf here in The Villages. And when it comes to golf, there is no better place to be.

Kenny Blocker

DROUGHT-TOLERANT CHOICES FOR LANDSCAPE BEAUTY

by Lisa Sanderson



There are many drought-tolerant plants that will thrive in our central Florida landscapes. As with all plants, those native and non-native, water is often required to get any plant established. Here are a few drought-tolerant plants, from medium trees to perennials, you can try in your landscape:

The American Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) is a medium tree that can reach up to 40 feet tall and 30 feet wide. They have attractive papery blooms and provide nutlets that attract birds.

Saucer Magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangiana*). We are at the southern end of the USDA Hardiness Zone of 9A for this tree that can get to 25 feet tall and wide. The joy of this magnolia is that it blooms pink saucers before the leaves open. It tolerates medium to well-drained soil after established.

Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) pictured, is a favorite large shrub that prefers part shade. This is a Florida native plant that blooms with small pink blooms circling the stem where the vibrant purple berries develop and are enjoyed by birds.



Japanese Aralia (*Fatsia japonica*) is a good choice if you need a coarse texture in your shade garden. If you plant this in sun, it will kill this plant. It has large evergreen leaves and white wintery flowers. It is hardy from zones 8-11 so will do well in your shade garden and only

gets to about 8 feet tall and up to 10 feet wide.

Ground Covers such as including Shore Juniper, Creeping Juniper, and Lilyturf, are all drought tolerant. All prefer sun and are not native plants. The junipers can spread as far as 10 feet so plan ahead on placement so they do not “eat” your sidewalks and require constant pruning. Do not cut them into dead wood as they will not break bud and grow more. Only trim within green growing areas. The green lilyturf can be a spreading ground cover (*Liriope spicata*) or mounding (*Liriope muscari*). If you choose a white variegated liriop, it prefers shade.

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) is a sun-loving Florida native perennial. Placing this in a shady spot means it will not survive. This is not an obnoxious spreader and does not sow seed. It does not like to be over-watered or put in poorly-drained soil, and it does not like extended wet weather. Birds and butterflies are attracted to this lovely plant.

Stokes Aster (*Stokesia laevis*) is a great Florida native perennial if you like blue. It prefers full sun and is also drought tolerant. It only grows up to 2 feet tall and wide and attracts butterflies. By its second year, it can be loaded with blooms which are purple “head” flowers.

To learn more about these drought tolerant plants, and others, check out this Florida-Friendly Landscaping TMPDF of the Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design at: https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/fflifasufledu/docs/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_2015.pdf

BIKE • FRIENDLY • COMMUNITY • CORNER

The bicycle community in The Villages has “soldiered on”, despite the world’s challenges, with activities that make bicycling safer for both the community and ourselves.

In January and February, we held three Bike Safety and Maintenance classes through The Enrichment Academy for Villagers in February. Both classes were filled, with waiting room only. They were so popular that we plan two more in October. Please, enroll on-line at www.theenrichmentacademy.org under the category of “Sports”.

In June and July, we held two classes for grandkids through Camp Villages. They are highly interactive so children, and their grand-



parents, can absorb bicycle and traffic safety principles. We begin indoors, show the reason for wearing helmets with an “egg drop” exercise, followed by fitting helmets so that each child has a personal one that he/she promises to wear whenever riding a bike. We reinforce the classroom safety briefing with some practical learning where the kids practice skills on a “bike rodeo” course that we lay out on the parking lot with chalk and cones.

Also in June we supported the Sumter County Sheriff Office by rebuilding and repairing 75 bikes donated by department stores like Target, Walmart, and Sam's Club. The Sheriff gives the bikes to people who need them – both kids and adults.

In August, we are branching out a little. The Live Oaks Community Church has asked us to host a Camp Villages-style program for its Community Blessing and Outreach program. We will present the program at the church parking lot known as “The Grove” behind Walmart on CR 466. This class will focus on children from the surrounding community, kids who might not have advantages as grandkids of The Villages residents.

HOW DO YOU SPOT A SCAM? LISTEN TO HOW SOMEONE TELLS YOU TO PAY

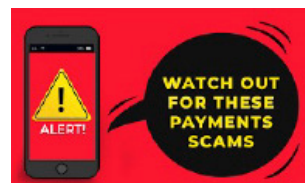
Seniors vs. CRIME



In a recent consumer alert published by the Federal Trade Commission, we learned the best way to make a clean getaway from a scam is “Listen to how they tell you to pay!”

If they say: “Pay us by putting money on a gift card and then give us the number on the back.” – **That is a SCAM.**

If they say: “We’ll send you a check. Deposit the check and then send us the money.” – **That is a SCAM.** (That check will later turn out to be bogus and you will be on the hook for the money)



If they say: “You have to pay us by sending money through a money transfer company, like

MoneyGram or Western Union.” – **That is a SCAM.**

If they say: “Go to a store with a cryptocurrency ATM, put your money in to buy cryptocurrency, and use this QR code to send it to this address.” – **That is a SCAM.**

Scammers have lots of stories about why you need to pay – like pretending they’re calling from the government, a business, utility, tech company, or even a charity. Or, they’ll call about a family emergency or a relative who is in trouble. Or, they’ll call about a virus you have on your computer that needs to be fixed.

No matter what reason they use, they will pressure you to act immediately, and of course, pay them money! When they do, hang up and avoid being scammed. It’s a simple as that!

For more information on how to avoid being scammed,

contact your nearest Seniors vs. Crime office:

• **Sumter Office – (352) 689-4600, Ext. 4606.**

Mon. - Thurs. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
8035 E. CR 466 (Sheriff’s Annex)
corner of Morse Blvd.

• **Wildwood Office – (352) 753-0727.**

Tues. - Thurs. 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
2722 Brownwood Blvd. –

Wildwood Police Annex next to theater.

• **Marion Office – (352) 753-0727.**

Tues. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
8230 SE 165th Mulberry Ln. (Sheriff’s Annex)

• **Fruitland Park Office – (352) 674-1882.**

Wed. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Moyer Rec. Center, 3000 Moyer Loop,
Fruitland Park Police Substation.

TOWN HALL REPORT cont'd from Page 1

A. This is different as it is not soliciting/selling a product.

11. Please explain why bicycles and e-bikes are permitted on the narrow paths of the Hogeye Preserve. They are traveling at 15-20 mph passing walkers many of whom are wearing ear buds or having hearing issues. There have been two people hit from behind and knocked down.

John Rohan: The variety of multi-modal paths, trails, and pathways are all designated with approved uses. Based on the type and size of the path, the designated signage will indicate what is allowed and not allowed. The design and width of Hogeye allows for e-bikes, bikes, walking, and jogging as approved uses. E-bikes are considered non-motorized vehicles unlike golf carts and therefore are allowed on this pathway. We encourage residents to practice safety and courtesy when using any of our paths and trails.

12. New residents in the historic section of The Villages have asked:

a. In which district is the historic section?

Carrie Duckett: The Lady Lake/Lake County portion of The Villages is not located in a Village Community Development District.

b. Where can a resident in the historic side locate the deed restrictions?

Carrie Duckett: Deed restrictions can be found on www.districtgov.org – by clicking on the ‘How Do I’ – Download “My Deed Restrictions” Link.

c. Who enforces the rules and regulations in this area?

Carrie Duckett: The Village Center Community Development District enforces in this portion of The Villages. Community Standards can be reached at 352-751-3912 for assistance in deed restrictions and architectural review.

13. What is the schedule of maintenance for trimming trees and bushes that block vehicular sightlines on roadways and multi-modal paths?

Carrie Duckett: As plant material, shrubs, and trees grow over time, they can encroach upon line-of-sight issues and cause impairments to pedestrians, golf carts, cyclists, and automobiles. While all trees and shrubs are routinely maintained and trimmed to the standards of The Villages, they grow over time despite the constant trimming and maintenance. When a line-of-sight issue is brought to the attention of District Property Management, we immediately evaluate the situation and take corrective action, which may be more aggressive pruning or trimming, removal, and replacement. While our Supervisors are constantly looking for any line-of-sight issues, we cover nearly 80 square miles of landscaping and thus we rely on our residents to report these types of issues to ensure the safety of all of our residents, and their guests. Call Property Management 352-753-4022.

14. As new homeowners in the Village of McClure on Biller Circle, we understand that trash cans are not permitted. However, several homeowners

ers are using trash cans, which the sanitation workers empty and place back at the curb. Are trash cans now permitted?

Carrie Duckett: Per the Declaration of Restrictions, trash cans are not permitted. To report a potential violation, contact Community Standards at 352-751-3912.

15. When a landscaping company completes their work and places their sign on the lawn, how long is the sign permitted to remain?

Carrie Duckett: Each District has its own rules for signs. Please contact Community Standards at 352-751-3912 to determine your specific sign restrictions.

16. The white line into the Belvedere gate is faded making it difficult to see the separation between vehicular traffic and golf carts. What is the schedule for repainting this line?

Deborah Synder: We will look at the location to decide replacement of the pavement markings.

Q. What about road markings in other locations?

A. Carrie Duckett: Depending on the area, it can fall under the purview of the District, city, or county. You can report issues to Customer Service and they will forward to the appropriate entity.

17. What is The Villages policy on flying political flags other than American or military flags?

Carrie Duckett: As a governmental entity, the District does not regulate the content on flags. The only thing that we have the ability to regulate is the placement of the flagpole itself to ensure it is not located in an easement and that the homeowner had permission from the ARC for the flagpole. We do not require that flags be a specific content (or that they not be a specific content).

18. What is the setback distance between homes? A neighbor is planning to add a screened in cage that will interfere with sightlines and privacy.

Carrie Duckett: A review of your specific Deed Restrictions and site plan is necessary to determine setbacks between neighboring homes. Please contact Community Standards at 352 751-3912 and they can assist you with reviewing your specific Unit.

19. How can we address the issue of noise from adults and children from non-stop short-term rentals of neighbors' homes?

Lt. Siemer: Call the Sheriff's department if after 9:00 p.m.

20. What is being done to slow the speeding of vehicular and golf car traffic?

Lt. Siemer: There are three (3) units patrolling traffic daily. In June, 1045 traffic stops were made.

Q. Were all the traffic stops for ticketing drivers?

A. No, some were warnings given either verbally or written.

21. Regarding vehicular and golf cart accidents in The Villages:

a. What is the average number of accidents?

Lt. Siemer: In June there was a total of 220 crashes counting vehicles and golf carts.

b. Where are the most common locations?

Lt. Siemer: Locations vary from month to month.

c. What are the most prevalent causes?

Lt. Siemer: Distracted driver is the most prevalent cause.

22. Why are bicycles allowed on roadways and not restricted to multi-modal paths?

Lt. Siemer: Bicycles are allowed on roadways by regulations.

23. What is being done to ensure there will be an adequate water supply in the future for all new and existing homes?

Carrie Duckett: There are numerous regulations in place to ensure a sustainable water supply in the State of Florida. The environmental regulation of water and/or wastewater utilities in areas such as water withdrawal permits, sewage disposal and health and safety standards is the responsibility of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Florida Water Management Districts, and the local county health agencies; there is a significant amount of information available on their respective websites. The water, wastewater and irrigation utility services in The Villages are subject to these regulations and permitting requirements with regard to safety of the water supply and providing adequate capacity to the community. Based on the permits issued to date for existing and future areas of The Villages by the responsible agencies, there is adequate water supply to sustain existing and future growth.

24. Does The Villages have any procedure in place to clean the roads?

Deborah Snyder: Sumter County sweeps all the county-maintained roads in the Villages Districts 1-3 and 5-10 every other month. We employ a contractor to perform this work. If the residents have a particular location in mind, we can review and send one of our Team to review the location.

As for the City of Wildwood, they sweep their streets on an as needed basis.

25. If the vote for The Villages independent fire district is passed, when will the amount of property tax paid to Sumter County show as a savings?

Bradley Arnold: The Property Appraiser will not certify the property values or the number of parcels associated with the same until 6/30/23 as this information is the basis for the determination of the County's General Fund Millage Rate, the MSTU rate for the Sumter County Fire & EMS service area, and the millage rate that Mr. Blocker would recommend to the newly created independent district for the fiscal year starting 10/1/23.

THE VHA BANNER PHOTOGRAPH OF THE VILLAGES WAS TAKEN AT THE SHARON WIECHENS PRESERVE BY RONNIE CLARK (To see more of his work, visit his FB Page.) THANK YOU RONNIE!

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE THEVHA.NET FOR INFO, MEMBERSHIP,
HELPFUL LINKS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, AND MORE**

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HELPING HANDS

